

IN THE CLAIMS

No claims are amended. For the convenience of the Examiner, the pending claims are reproduced below.

- 1 1. (Previously presented) A method for determining whether a client accepts
2 visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:
 - 3 a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a client;
 - 4 b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visitor
5 identifier;
 - 6 c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:
 - 7 obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;
 - 8 determining that the client accepts visitor identifiers; and
 - 9 transmitting the requested resource to the client;
 - 10 d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier and res-
11 ponsive to the request not including an indicator that redirection
12 has occurred:
 - 13 assigning a new visitor identifier;
 - 14 sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier to
15 the client, the redirection request including an indicator
16 that redirection has occurred;

17 responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, deter-
18 mining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;
19 responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier, de-
20 termining that the client does not accept visitor identifi-
21 ers; and
22 transmitting the requested resource to the client.

1 2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the visitor identifier
2 comprises a cookie.

1 3. (Previously presented) A method for determining whether a requestor ac-
2 cepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

3 a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor
4 having an address;

5 b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;

6 c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:

7 c.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;

8 c.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers;

9 and

10 c.3) transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and

11 d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:

12 d.1) determining whether the request includes an indicator that
13 step d.3) has been performed;
14 d.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that step
15 d.3) has been performed:
16 assigning a visitor identifier from the requestor's address;
17 determining that the requestor does not accept visitor
18 identifiers; and
19 transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and
20 d.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator that
21 step d.3) has been performed:
22 assigning a new visitor identifier;
23 sending to the requestor a redirection request including
24 the new visitor identifier and an indicator that step
25 d.3) has been performed, the redirection request
26 being adapted to cause the requestor to retransmit
27 the request for the resource; and
28 repeating steps a-d.

1 4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the visitor identifier
2 comprises a cookie.

1 5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein determining
2 whether the request for the resource includes a visitor identifier comprises:
3 comparing the visitor identifier with a range of valid visitor identifiers;
4 and,
5 in response to the visitor identifier being outside the range of valid visi-
6 tor identifiers, indicating that the request did not include the vis-
7 itor identifier.

1 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the visitor identifier
2 comprises a cookie.

1 7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 e.) categorizing data sent with the request for the resource by at least
3 one selected from the group consisting of a visitor identifier, a
4 page identifier, and a time stamp.

1 8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the visitor identifier
2 comprises a cookie.

1 9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further compris-
2 ing:
3 repeating steps a-d for a predetermined amount of time.

1 10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further compris-
2 ing:

3 repeating steps a-d until receiving a particular request for a resource.

1 11. (Previously presented) A data collection server for determining whether a
2 requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising:

3 a communication interface for receiving a request for a resource from a
4 requestor and sending a visitor identifier;

5 a cookie handler coupled to the communications interface for perform-
6 ing the steps of:

7 a) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;

8 b) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:

9 b.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;

10 b.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor iden-
11 tifiers; and

12 b.3) causing the communication interface to transmit the
13 requested resource to the requestor;

14 c) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:

15 c.1) determining whether the request includes an indica-
16 tor that step c.3) has been performed;

17 c.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that

18 step c.3) has been performed:

19 assigning a visitor identifier;

20 determining that the requestor does not accept visi-

21 tor identifiers; and

22 causing the communication interface to transmit

23 the requested resource to the requestor;

24 c.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator

25 that step c.3) has been performed:

26 assigning a new visitor identifier;

27 causing the communication interface to send to the

28 requestor a redirection request including the

29 new visitor identifier and an indicator that

30 step c.3) has been performed, the redirection

31 request being adapted to cause the requestor

32 to retransmit the request for the resource;

33 and

34 a session controller coupled to the cookie handler for signaling a ses-

35 sion end for a particular visitor identifier; and

36 a repository for:

37 storing data sent with the request for the resource;

38 responsive to the request including a visitor identifier, storing data as-
39 sociated with the visitor.

1 12. (Previously presented) The data collection server of claim 11, wherein the
2 visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

1 13 to 17. (Canceled).

1 18. (Previously presented) A computer program product having computer
2 readable code embodied thereon , said computer readable code for programming one
3 or more computers to perform a method for determining whether a client accepts vis-
4 itor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

5 a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a client;

6 b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visitor
7 identifier;

8 c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:

9 obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;

10 determining that the client accepts visitor identifiers; and

11 transmitting the requested resource to the client;

12 d.) responsive to the request not including the visitor identifier and

13 responsive to the request not including an indicator that redirec-
14 tion has occurred:

15 assigning a new visitor identifier;
16 sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier to
17 the client, the redirection request including an indicator
18 that redirection has occurred;
19 responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, deter-
20 mining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;
21 responsive to the client not storing the new visitor identifier, de-
22 termining that the client does not accept visitor identifi-
23 ers; and
24 transmitting the requested resource to the client.

1 19. (Previously presented) A computer program product having computer
2 readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable code for programming one
3 or more computers to perform a method for determining whether a requestor accepts
4 visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

- 5 a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor
6 having an address;
- 7 b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier;
- 8 c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:
9 c.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;

10 c.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers;
11 and
12 c.3) transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and
13 d.) responsive to the request not including a visitor identifier:
14 d.1) determining whether the request includes an indicator that
15 step d.3) has been performed;
16 d.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that step
17 d.3) has been performed:
18 assigning a visitor identifier from the requestor's address;
19 determining that the requestor does not accept visitor
20 identifiers; and
21 transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and
22 d.3) responsive to the request not including the indicator that
23 step d.3) has been performed:
24 assigning a new visitor identifier;
25 sending to the requestor a redirection request including
26 the new visitor identifier and an indicator that step
27 d.3) has been performed, the redirection request
28 being adapted to cause the requestor to retransmit
29 the request for the resource; and
30 repeating steps a-d.

1 20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 19, where-
2 in the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

1 21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received re-
2 quest identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the resource identi-
3 fied by the received request.

1 22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received re-
2 quest identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the address identi-
3 fied by the received request.

1 23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein sending a redirec-
2 tion request comprises sending a redirection request including an indicator that step
3 c) has been performed.

1 24. (Canceled).

1 25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the received re-
2 quest identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the resource identi-
3 fied by the received request.

1 26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the received re-
2 quest identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the address identi-
3 fied by the received request.

1 27 to 29. (Canceled).

1 30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 repeating steps a-d until reaching a session expiration.

1 31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 repeating steps a-d until reaching a session expiration.